

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action of February 19, 2009, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. This response is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1-33 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 3, and 8 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 17, 20, 21, 30, 31, and 33 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the originally filed application at, for example, page 29, line 20 to page 30, line 9 and Figs. 14A and 14B. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-14, 18, 22-24, 26, 27, 29-31, and 33 have been rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0002703 (Koyama). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Independent claims 1, 2, and 8

Among other features, each of amended independent claims 1 and 8 recites a first pixel including a first transistor, a second pixel including a third transistor, and a third pixel including a fifth transistor. A gate electrode of the first transistor is connected to a second power line, a gate electrode of the third transistor is connected to a fourth power line, and a gate electrode of the fifth transistor is connected to a sixth power line. Electric potentials of each of the second power line, the fourth power line, and the sixth power line are different from electric potentials of the other two.

Koyama does not describe or suggest that electric potentials of each of a second power line, a fourth power line, and a sixth power lines are different from electric potentials of the other two.

Koyama relates to an electroluminescent display that includes a pixel portion 101 in which pixels 104 are arranged in matrix form. See Koyama at ¶ 0106 and Fig. 1. The pixel portion 101 includes power source control lines C1 to Cn, all of which are connected to an

external switch 117. See Koyama at ¶ 0115 and Fig. 2. Within a pixel 104, a gate electrode of a power source controlling transistor 112 is connected to a power source control line 113, and either the source or the drain of the transistor 112 is connected to an electroluminescent (EL) element 111. See Koyama at ¶ 0117 and Fig. 3. The power source control line 113 is one of the power source control lines C1 to Cn. See Koyama at ¶ 0117.

The Office equates Koyama's power source control line 113, which is one of the power source control lines C1 to Cn, with the recited second power line. However, as shown in Figure 2 of Koyama, the power source control lines C1 to Cn are all connected to the external switch 117. As a result, the power source control lines C1 to Cn are all at the same potential.

Accordingly, Koyama does not describe or suggest that the electric potentials of each of a second power line, a fourth power line, and a sixth power lines are different from electric potentials of the other two.

For at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 8 and their dependent claims 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 22, 26, 29, 30, and 33.

Among other features, amended independent claim 2 recites that a gate electrode of a first transistor is connected to a second power line, a gate electrode of a fourth transistor is connected to a fourth power line, and a gate electrode of the seventh transistor is connected to a sixth power line. Each of the electric potentials of the second power line, the fourth power line, and the sixth power line are different. As discussed above, Koyama's power source control lines C1 to Cn are all at the same potential because all of the power source control lines C1 to Cn are connected to the external switch 117.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 and its dependent claims 14, 18, 27, and 31.

Independent Claim 3

Claims 3, 15, 19, 25, 28, and 32 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Koyama in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0113760 (Kimura). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because no proper combination of Koyama and Kimura describes or suggests the subject matter of independent claim 3.

Among other features, independent claim 3 recites a light-emitting element, a first transistor for determining a value of a current flowing to the light-emitting element, a second transistor for determining a light emission or non light emission of the light-emitting element depending on a video signal input through a signal line, a third transistor for controlling an input of the video signal, and a fourth transistor for forcing the light-emitting element into a non-emission state irrelevant from the video signal.

As noted on page 8 of the Office Action, Koyama does not describe or suggest a fourth transistor for forcing the light-emitting element into a non-emission state. For this feature, the Office relies on Kimura. Kimura discloses a light-emitting device having a pixel that includes a switching transistor 735, an erasing transistor 740, a driver transistor 736, a discharging transistor 737, and an OLED 738. See Kimura at ¶ 0150. The erasing transistor 740 determines whether the pixel presents a display. See Kimura at ¶ 0158.

The Office suggests that it would have been obvious to modify Koyama's pixel 104 to include Kimura's erasing transistor 740. However, such a modification of Koyama's pixel 104 to include Kimura's erasing transistor 740 would amount to a substantial redesign of Koyama's pixel 104.

In Koyama, the emission state of the EL element 111 (which the Office equates with the recited light-emitting element) is controlled by the power source controlling transistor 112 and the external switch 117 that is connected to the power source controlling transistor 112 through the power source control line 113. See Koyama at ¶ 0124. In a write-in period, the power source controlling transistor 112 is in an OFF state, and the EL driver voltage is held at zero volts. See Koyama at ¶ 0124. In the display period, the power source controlling transistor is in an ON state, and the EL driver voltage has a magnitude such that the EL element 111 emits light. See Koyama at ¶ 0124.

Thus, in Koyama, the emission state of the EL element 111 is controlled by the power source controlling transistor 112 and the external switch 117 that is connected to the power source controlling transistor 112. As a result, modifying Koyama to include a fourth transistor for forcing the EL element 111 into a non-emission state as suggested by the Office would render the power source controlling transistor 112 unnecessary. Moreover, the proposed modification would result in the addition of a fourth transistor into Koyama's pixel 104. Accordingly, such a

modification would amount to a substantial redesign of Koyama's pixel 104, and, thus, would not have been obvious. See MPEP 2143.02 (IV).

For at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 and its dependent claims 15, 19, 25, 28, and 32.

Dependent claims 5, 11, 16, 20, and 21

Claims 5, 11, 16, 20, and 21, each of which depends from one of independent claims 1, 2, and 8, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Koyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,207,969 (Yamazaki). Yamazaki, which is cited as showing a light-emitting device including a depletion type transistor, does not remedy the failure of Koyama to describe or suggest the noted features of independent claims 1, 2, and 8. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 5, 11, 16, 20, and 21.

Dependent claim 17

Claim 17, which depends from independent claim 3, has been rejected as being unpatentable over Koyama and Kimura in view of Yamazaki. As discussed above, neither Koyama nor Kimura describes or suggests the noted feature of independent claim 3. Moreover, Yamazaki, which is cited as showing a light-emitting device including a depletion type transistor, does not remedy the failure of Koyama and Kimura to describe or suggest the noted features of independent claim 3. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 17.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the

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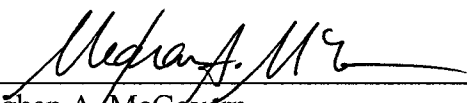
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amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Fees in the amount of \$810 in payment for the Request for Examination are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. No other fees are believed due at this time. Nonetheless, please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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